Compton Abbas Parish Council

Minutes of the recorded virtual meeting of the Parish Council

on Wednesday the 16th September 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr T Clements – Chairman, Cllr S Warren and Cllr J Guttridge

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk) and Dorset Councillor Jane Somper

There were no members of the public present on Zoom.

There was a three-minute public consultation period. Nothing reported.

**12/20. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr J Low and Cllr J Coupe sent their apologies.

**13/20. Declaration of interest and dispensations**

Cllr T Clements declared a personal interest under agenda item 7 – Planning.

14/20. Co-option for new members.

There were none.

15/20. Approve minutes from 20th May 2020 and matters arising.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Warren and seconded by Cllr Clements, all agreed that the minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chairman.

RESOLVED: that the minutes were approved and signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chairman (15/20 – no budgetary allocations required)

Matters arising: The Chairman gave the following report on works completed since May 2020:

* Timber at the bus shelter repaired.
* Tree work in Fanners Field completed.
* Brick bus shelter repaired.
* Play area: Fencing and equipment treated, membrane trimmed and area weeded, new climbing net fitted,

old tyres removed.

* All three notice boards refurbished and new backings.
* Telephone box acquired, cleaned painted, new electrics, floor backing board and lighting.

16/20. Report from Dorset Council Councillor J Somper:

Dorset Council Working Arrangements: The Senior Leadership team has announced to members that they will continue to work from home until at least March 2021. This will not make our lives any easier when we need to deal with some council departments.

Rejection of Increased Councillor Allowance at Full Council; Following a Peer Review and recommendations from this of an increase of £500 for DC members I can confirm that this was rejected by most members (61 against, 12 for and 2 abstentions). This is the right decision when some residents here are taking pay cuts or facing redundancy.

New Dorset Council Cabinet, Chairman and Introduction of Lead Members: At the Full Council Meeting on September 3rd Councillor Val Pothecary was elected unopposed as the new Chairman of Dorset Council. Cllr Pothecary may already be known to some of you as former Chairman of North Dorset District Council, guiding the district through significant change during the move to the Unitary Authority. The Vice-Chairman is Cllr Mike Parkes.

Leader of Dorset Council, Spencer Flower announced a re-shuffle of the DC Cabinet with three changes on Cabinet as follows; Cllr Jill Haynes appointed Portfolio Holder for Customer and Community Service, Cllr Gary Suttle appointed Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy and Cllr Tony Ferrari appointed Economic Growth, Assets and Property. The other Portfolio holders remain the same.

The Leader also announced the introduction of 6 Lead members that will support Portfolio Holders in specific areas. This is a new approach by Dorset Council, but is a well tried and test way nationally of ensuring there is sufficient capacity for Cabinet Members who have particularly large portfolios.

Cllr Cherry Brooks Lead Member for Highways

Cllr Noc Lacey-Clark Lead Member Environment, Travel & Harbours

Cllr Byron Quayle Lead Member for Education

Cllr Jane Somper Lead Member for Child Safeguarding

Cllr Simon Gibson Lead Member for Adult Care

Cllr Piers Brown Lead Member for Health

The Leader said in his statement; “In addition to some changes in responsibility areas, I have, in discussion with Cabinet colleagues identified a need for there to be additional support for three of the Cabinet Portfolios as we move forward with a significant agenda for the year ahead. This support will be provided by six Lead Members.

“As a number of strategic programmes start to gather pace, I will keep this new arrangement under review.”

These new lead members will have a positive impact for other councillors and residents providing an additional point of contact where the focus will be very much increased. I have already arranged a site visit for the Lead Member Highways to give her a tangible understanding of A350/C13 problems we face.

I very much look forward to my own new role on Dorset Council and have begun work in this important area of children’s safeguarding, working closely with DC officers Cabinet member.

Abolition of Public Health England: Impact on Dorset Council area, you may have seen the coverage of the announcement that PHE is going to be replaced by a new National Institute for Health Protection that will combine NHS Test and Trace, PHE and the Joint Biosecurity Centre. Despite these changes, the ongoing health protection work that the regional health protection team in Dorset has been undertaking working closely with Councils will continue. The SW team is very much focused on the job to be done and challenge of preparing for winter and will continue to do everything to ensure that the disruption is as minimal as possible. The team are keen to ensure that as far as possible it will be business as usual. As more detail becomes available I will continue to keep you posted, but thought it important to share the early assurance that I’ve been given that the regional team remains committed to supporting us fully as they go through this challenging time.

Dinahs Hollow: A report on highways works to the slopes will now be going to Dorset Council Cabinet October meeting.

Dorset School Transport: This year, in order to limit the interaction between pupils at different schools, each closed school service will only pick up children for one school, instead of several.

There will be no social distancing on closed school routes although Dorset Council are advising operators introduce a range of measures to improve safety on the bus, such as good ventilation, improved cleaning regimes, no face to face seating and orderly pick up and drop off regimes.

Face coverings for children age 11 and above are highly recommended but will not be compulsory. Dorset Council will also be recommending that pupils sit in the same seat each day, wherever possible. More information about these will be given to parents and schools.

Children using public transport to get to school will be subject to social distancing on transport and must wear a face covering, unless they are under 11 or medically exempt from doing so.

Continued Help For Vulnerable Residents: The council has asked volunteer ‘befrienders’ to help spot the signs that a person may have become more frail or likely to fall because of their reduced ability to exercise and keep active in the wake of COVID-19. The volunteers, working on behalf of Age UK North, South & West Dorset are being asked to listen out for key words and phrases which describe the feelings of the person they help, such as: ‘frail’, ‘weaker’, ‘less balanced’, ‘likely to fall’, as these indicate the person will benefit from help to get more active.

They will also ask the person they befriend if they have noticed changes in their mobility since the start of the coronavirus outbreak. And if they have been able to complete their usual day-to-day activities such as leisure activities or housework. If the answer is yes to any of these questions, the befriender can ask the vulnerable person if they consent to being referred to the reablement service on offer from the council’s care provider Tricuro.

There is no charge for this service and a wide variety of support is on offer. From information and guidance, to practical support such as equipment to improve independence and increase confidence at home.

Blackmore Vale Magazine: A new digital only BV magazine was being launched on 18th September. Cllr Somper also said that there were other journals being planned, one of which was in conjunction with the Salisbury Journal

Dorset Council Consultations: Dorset Council is currently holding two consultations; Licencing Policy Consultation, creating a single licensing policy for the Dorset Council area (currently each previous district had its own policy, so bringing the best practice from each council together) and the Gambling Policy. These both end on 27th September.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/your-council/consultations/find-a-consultation.aspx>.

17/20. Finance

To agree: Payment Schedule

The Clerk tabled the financial statement to the Councillors, with the Payment Schedule for July to September 2020 for the sum of £2139.10. It was proposed by Cllr Clements and seconded by Cllr Warren, all agreed for the payments on the payment schedule be paid, the schedule was duly signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chairman.

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RESOLVED: to pay the payment on the schedule to the total sum of £2139.10 (9/20 current account)



The Clerk had circulated the bank reconciliation to all Councillors. The bank reconciliation was agreed by all.

18/20. Planning: review of working group recommendations via emails and at this virtual meeting:

• 2/2020/0976/HOUSE | Conversion of garage to additional bedroom | East End Chapel Hill Compton Abbas SP7 0ND – There were no objections

• 2/2020/0977/LBC/0976/HOUSE - East End, Chapel Hill - Conversion of garage to additional bedroom – There were no objections

• 2/2020/0978/HOUSE | Convert and extend potting shed to reading room. | East End Chapel Hill Compton Abbas SP7 0ND – There were no objections

• 2/2020/0979/LBC/0978/HOUSE - East End, Chapel Hill - Convert and extend potting shed to reading room

• Non-material amendment to Planning Permission 2/2016/1758/FUL to reduce size of carport shed/store -There were no objections

19/20. Chairman’s report.

This has been a difficult and challenging period for all. Delighted that nearly everything on maintenance plan for whole year has been completed. There will be more unbudgeted cost for the phone box, which the Parish Council have in other reserves to use as a quote is being obtained from SSE to supply electric to light up the Church area. Once the cost has been obtained it will be brought forward to the Council for their consideration.

The Clerks appraisal will be completed this month.

20/20. Officers’ Reports including progress report and plans for the adopted telephone box

Cllr Warren has been working on producing a map for walkers to use, which will be based in the telephone box. There will also be information of the history of the area people are walking in. It is also being investigate supping a link for a recording of the walk, which will also give information on point of interest throughout the walk.

21/20. Clerk Report

The Clerk informed that Council that once DAPTC release dates for New Councillors training, she will circulate the information to the New Councillors for their attention.

22/20. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting

Budget, Matters arising before the next meeting.

The Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th December- Via Zoom at 6.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.07

Signed…………………………………………………………………………………………

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Should you wish to contact any Councillor please

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